



TO: **Child Care Eligibility and Authorization Workers and Supervisors**  
**Income Maintenance Supervisors**  
**Income Maintenance Lead Workers**  
**Income Maintenance Staff**  
**W-2 Agencies**  
**Training Staff**  
**Child Care Coordinators**

<b>BWF/DECE OPERATIONS MEMO</b>					
<b>No:</b> 21-J5					
<b>DATE:</b> 12/15/2021					
<b>CC</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>W-2</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>EA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>CF</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JAL</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>RAP</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other EP</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * <b>TJ/TMJ</b>					

FROM: Junior Martin, Director  
Bureau of Child Care Subsidy Administration  
Division of Early Care and Education  
Department of Children and Families

Patara Horn, Director  
Bureau of Working Families  
Division of Family and Economic Security  
Department of Children and Families

**SUBJECT: Income from the Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood**

**CROSS REFERENCE:** [W-2 Policy Manual Section 3.2.9.1 Disregarded Income Youth Formerly in Foster Care Direct Payments Help Desk Email](#)  
[Wisconsin Shares Handbook Section 1.4.3 Income that is Not Included in the Financial Eligibility Test](#)  
[Administration for Children and Families Letter Regarding Financial Assistance to Youth in or Formerly in Foster Care](#)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance to Income Maintenance (IM) and Wisconsin Works (W-2) agencies about treatment of direct financial payments to youth who aged out of foster care between January 27, 2020, and September 30, 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 provided funding for the Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee program), including providing direct financial payments from [Transition Resource Agencies](#) to youth formerly in foster care. To qualify, youth must have aged out of foster care between January 27, 2020, and September 30, 2021. Youth have the discretion to use these supports as they see fit, including but not limited to meeting basic needs, housing costs, and transportation needs.

These direct financial payments from the Chafee program to youth formerly in foster care are typically disbursed in \$1,000 increments per month for up to six months (no youth shall receive more than \$6,000 total) and are provided by Transition Resource Agencies. Payments may have started as early as June 2021 and are expected to end around March 2022. These payments may be referred to as:

- Direct financial assistance;
- Funding assistance;
- Youth federal COVID stimulus;
- Stimulus payment;
- Stimulus funds;
- Monthly stimulus payment;
- COVID stimulus;
- Stimulus checks for youth who aged out of foster care;
- Special stimulus payment for aging out youth due to COVID;
- Stimulus funding;
- \$6000 payment;
- Direct stimulus funding;
- Direct payment;
- Direct monthly stimulus payment; or
- Direct financial payment.

## ***POLICY***

### **W-2**

For the W-2 program, these payments from the Chafee program are to be disregarded as income for eligibility for W-2 and related programs. This information will be added to the W-2 Policy Manual in Section 3.2.9.1 Disregarded Income.

[See attached updated W-2 Manual Section 3.2.9.1](#)

### **WISCONSIN SHARES**

For Wisconsin Shares, payments from the Chafee program are not counted in the financial eligibility test.

## ***PROCESS***

### **W-2**

Agency workers should document payments from the Chafee program as disregarded income in case comments in CARES Worker Web (CWW).

### WISCONSIN SHARES

Payments from the Chafee program are not required to be entered in CWW, but workers may document receipt of the income in case comments.

## **RESOURCES**

The Chafee Program is also commonly referred to as Independent Living (IL) or the Independent Living Program.

- For more information about Wisconsin's IL program, please see the [Independent Living Worker Information](#) page.
- To connect older foster youth with these direct payments, please see [DCF Foster Youth Relief Funds](#). This includes a form youth can complete to inquire about their eligibility for this support.
- The [Foster Youth Relief Funds Tool Kit](#) has resources to spread the word about these payments.

## **CONTACTS**

### W-2

For W-2 Policy Questions: [BWF Policy Question SharePoint](#)

For W-2 WWP and CARES functionality questions: BWF Work Programs Help Desk  
[BWFworkprogramsHD@wisconsin.gov](mailto:BWFworkprogramsHD@wisconsin.gov)

### WISCONSIN SHARES

For Wisconsin Shares policy questions outside of Milwaukee County contact your Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO), Child Care Coordinators at [broccpolicyhelpdesk@wisconsin.gov](mailto:broccpolicyhelpdesk@wisconsin.gov)

For Program Integrity technical assistance, Child Care, CARES/CWW and CSAW processing questions statewide, and policy questions in Milwaukee County contact the Child Care Help Desk at [childcare@wisconsin.gov](mailto:childcare@wisconsin.gov) or 608-422-7200

\*Program Categories: Child Care (CC), Wisconsin Works (W-2), Children First (CF), Emergency Assistance (EA), Job Access Loan (JAL), Refugee Assistance Program (RAP), Other Employment Programs (Other EP).

DCF/DFES/BWF/MP  
DCF/DECE/ERR & LM